Volume 16, No. 4 August 2005 F R E E

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Established in 1990 by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

Long Hair David: a generation of his influence offers thanks

1st statement

by Tara Perkins

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my ten years of experience as a colleague of Long Hair David. I first met David when I was 19, and was just becoming involved in community organizing and social justice activism. At the time, David was running the Olympia Aids Prevention Projects (OAPP). OAPP had several harm reduction programs, including a needle exchange and a youth peer-to-peer outreach center. I began working with the youth program, where we spent weekend evenings doing volunteer street outreach distributing safer sex materials, bleach kits, hygiene kits, and informational pamphlets. David was extremely welcoming and supportive of new people who wanted to become involved, and as an painfully shy kid his encouragement and enthusiasm were invaluable to me. It was through this work that I met friends and colleagues who are still a part of my life today. David approached the project with great dedication, made himself available 24 hours a day to people who required harm reduction materials, and his work helped found what is today the Thurston County Health Department's Needle Exchange.

The next project I had the opportunity to work with David on was the Olympia Books to Prisoners project (BTP). BTP is a national organization with chapters in several cities which sends books free of charge to prisoners, who frequently have little or no access to libraries or educational materials while incarcerated. The most requested are dictionaries, Spanish/English dictionaries, GED books, and black history books. David single-handedly brought BTP to Olympia, and built a thriving chapter with a huge stock of books, a large volunteer base, and a visible community profile which brought awareness of prison issues to Olympia. David fundraised tirelessly for BTP, putting on benefits that drew nationally recognized performers and producing his well-loved "Poetry for Prisoners" spoken-word events. When funds were low, the man would go so far as to set up a sidewalk table with a display of packages waiting to be mailed, to collect money and stamps. Since its inception roughly eight years ago, the project has sent out thousands of packages, and it continues to run to this day.

David went on to work with the Emma Goldman Youth Homeless Outreach Project. I have not worked with him on this project but I see him frequently, distributing blankets, socks, hygiene materials, and food to people on the streets. Aside from the aforementioned endeavors, I have worked with David on countless other occasions: speaking at city council meetings to address homeless issues; attending anti-war and other social justice rallies; he has hosted performance events and attended harm-reduction conferences I've organized, and much more.

> David models an ethic of direct participation in and constant engagement with one's community, which has been deeply influential and inspiring in my life.

David models an ethic of direct participation in and constant engagement with one's community, which has been deeply influential and inspiring in my life and in the lives of countless others. He promotes an infectious spirit of volunteerism that has led to the establishment of several long-running and vital institutions in Olympia. His past personal experience with incarceration and addiction earn him the trust of the people he works with in a way that social service organizations cannot. David Fawver's tireless giving and service make him an invaluable asset to Olympia; the extent of this cannot be exaggerated. It has been an honor to know and work with him. I hope that his many contributions to the community and his spirit of goodwill will be recognized. I extend to him my deepest gratitude and support.

Tara Perkins has been an Olympia community member for eleven years, currently an employee of the Olympia Food Co-op. She will soon be relocating to the Bay Area to edit an anthology.

To those who hold power

by Nomy Lamm

The work of Long Hair David changed my life and the lives of many, probably more people than can be accounted for. To say such a thing, in the current age of political and social suspicion, feels like waving my arms in the face of an attack dog, going "Hey, right here!" But I have to. Dave could go to prison for life. He has paid more than his own debt already. He is needed in the world.

Long Hair Dave showed up in my life when I was seventeen. He could be spotted around town with his Olympia AIDS Prevention Project trench coat, tell-tale hair, and usually a flyer for some fundraising event he was organizing with nationally renowned artists and local superstars on the bill. Through Dave I met many of my peers, doing street outreach on weekend nights, performing at and promoting OAPP benefit shows, congregating on street corners ready to be a part of whatever was happening.

I am lucky to have never actually lived on the streets, but I spent a lot of time on them, participating and creating culture.

Long Hair David in his "bike shop". Among many other community outreach projects, he founded the EGYHOP Bike Project which repairs and distributes free bikes to low/no income people

At every point, Dave was there with a project that was both necessary and accessible. It had been many years since Dave himself was homeless, or incarcerated, or on drugs, yet he served those

▸LHD *continues on page 10*

Update on Olympia Downtown Association

Pat Tassoni

I have presented my evidence as detailed in last month's WIP to the city council during Public Communications. My claim is that the ODA excludes a class of residential citizens from full participation in their organization, which is inconsistent with requirements of the city's Neighborhood Association program. The only reason that this matters, since the ODA is a business association, is that the city has recognized them as a Neighborhood Association and has funded them from that program for years. At my public testimony, Mayor Foutch lectured me about how the city doesn't give the ODA money to just give them money, and the money they give comes from a different source anyway. He promptly shut-up when another councilmember pointed out that the city has given NA money to the ODA for years. (It is interesting to note that that comment did not enter the city's official minutes of the meeting.)

> Surely, there must be some measure of disclosure and some standard of informed consent needed to be met before one-sided measures are enacted.

City Staff generated their first report into my claim, dismissing it because they could find no evidence that the ODA limits votes in

▸ODA *continues on page 10*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed *do not necessarily reflect* those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

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Dave Campbell, Chelsea Chase, Sebastian Chase, Renee Cruickshank, Christian DesMarets, Drew Hendricks, Teresa Jennings, David Lavender, Sandy Mayes, Phan Nguyen, hali panneton, Melissa Roberts, Sylvia Smith, Jeff Sowers, Pat Tassoni

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments.

Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to wip@zhonka.net or mail to *Works In Progress*, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

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The following statement is part of Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:
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"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed *WIP*'s below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

About the cover: See articles on pages 6 and 7 discussing labor struggles at Pizza Time and the Ramada Inn. Cover design – Pat Tassoni

WIP Schedule

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August 19

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Announcements

Explore Nonviolence and Organizing

Register soon for Friday-Sunday September 16-18

We have a tremendous opportunity to explore the power of nonviolence – both within our own lives and for organizing peace and social justice movements – during an intensive weekend workshop September 16-18 organized by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).

This weekend will deepen our understanding of nonviolence at both head and heart levels. It also will provide practical skills for organizing grassroots movements. A second weekend later will train people to conduct this training for additional persons in other settings into the future.

The weekend is limited to 30 participants. Strong preference will be given for persons interested in being trained during a later weekend in how to train additional people in nonviolence and grassroots organizing.

Please apply only if you can attend all sessions from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday September 16-17, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday the 18th.

The Olympia FOR is subsidizing the cost to help low-income folks participate. Also, we've arranged for scholarships funded by the Community Sustaining Fund, Olympia Friends Meeting (Quakers), and Interfaith Works. The sliding scale cost (from $20 to $300, hopefully averaging $100-$120 per person) is extremely low for such high quality training!

We want all kinds of diversity (ages, races, economic classes, religions, experiences, issues, movements, etc.). The space is wheelchair accessible.

For more information – or to be notified when pre-registration opens – please contact Jody Tiller (360) 956-7321 being-peaceful@changetheworld.org or Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glen@olywa.net.

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition
WROC Night Out

Monday, August 1st
Join us at 5:30 for a potluck

First United Methodist Church: 1224 5th Avenue SE

6 – 8 pm: A class on stretching your food dollars and creating healthy meals that can save you money and taste good!http://nutrition.wsu.edu/foodsense/

Thurston County Cooperative Extension will share their ideas and get yours.
Bring your favorite cost savings recipes!

Contact WROC for more information: Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, 701 Franklin Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501, 352-9716. wrocoly@wroc.org

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition
Pizza Party!

Friday, August 26th, 6 – 9 pm
Fertile Ground Guest House
at 311 9th Avenue

If you haven't tried cob oven pizza or lazed in the beautiful gardens, you are in for a treat. If you have, we know you will be there! Proceeds support WROC

WROC's Mission is to effect economic and social justice by educating and empowering low income parents. Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, 701 Franklin Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501, 352-9716. wrocoly@wroc.org

The Gleaners Coalition
Helps Feed The Hungry

The Gleaners Coalition works in collaboration with state, local and community based organizations, local farms, and community members, to alleviate hunger and malnutrition through providing access to fresh, locally grown produce for the low-income and no-income members of our community.

The Gleaners Coalition Seeks:

- Volunteers to gather food on local farms for themselves and to share with our communities Emergency Food Programs.
- Donors, local farms with food left after harvest, home gardeners and with CSA members with more food than they can eat.
- Coordinators who can help organize volunteers, act as liasons with local farms, home gardeners and CSA members, coordinate the distribution of gleaned food, and participate in The Gleaners Coalition's operations and administration.

~ PIZZA PARTY FUNDRAISER ~

Hosted By the Gleaners Coalition Honoring Local Farms

At Fertile Ground
311 9th Ave SE

Friday, August 5th, 6-9pm

PIZZA MUSIC RAFFLE
*** TRIBUTE TO KIRSOP FARM**

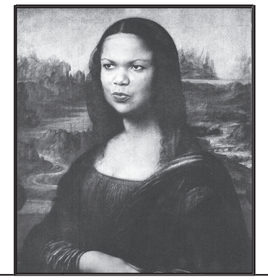
To help the Gleaners feed the hungry in our community, make a tax-deductible donation, or get more information, please contact: Barry Cannon, Coordinator, at 360-705-2375 or barry@gleanerscoalition.org. Also at www.gleanerscoalition.org.

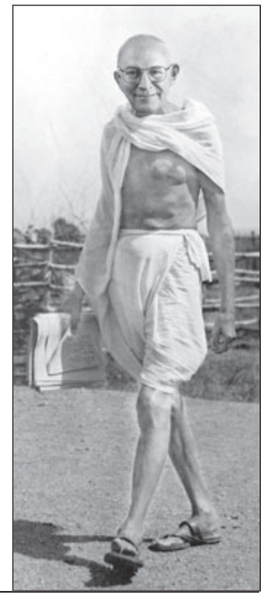
▸Announcements *continued pg 11*

August 2005

Imagine . . .

Turning the Bushs to lambs, Condaleezza to Mona Lisa, Rumsfeld into a Kewpie doll, and Cheney into Gandhi.





. . . all the people living life in peace.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Watchfulness is the path to immortality, and thoughtlessness the path to death. The watchful do not die, but the thoughtless are already like the dead. Dhammapada	**1** **2003:** W African presses Liberia's Pres Taylor to step down **2004:** Feds warn of al-Qaida plans to attack NY, NJ, DC	**2** **2004:** 5 million kids added to gov health programs since 2001, 9 million workers losing employer-provided health insurance	**3** **2003:** West African regional peacekeeping troops enter Liberia **2004:** Army investigation clears all superiors in Abu Ghraib case	**4** **2003:** US begins training 400 Iraqi volunteers for Iraqi Army 2004: King Co. Superior Court judge rules gay couples can marry	**5** **2004:** Greenpeace activists arrested in Tongass National Forest where they chained themselves to road-building equipment	
6 **2004:** US Army reservist testifies military intelligence led and directed the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison	**7** **2004:** Iraq closes Al-Jazeera newsroom in Baghdad for 30 days **2004:** Iraq PM Allawi signs amnesty for minor criminals	**8** **1974:** Nixon announces resignation **2004:** Iraqi gov issues arrest warrants against Ahmad Chalabi for murder, counterfeiting	**9** **2004:** Authorities do not warn public of terrorist threat in Las Vegas, it might hurt tourism or increase casinos' legal liability	**10** **2002:** Bush says Saddam is "enemy until proven otherwise" **2003:** Taylor in farewell accuses US of arming Liberian rebels	**11** **2004:** Federal deficit hits record high 395.8 billion & 2 months left **2004:** Group Health nurses will strike over health benefits	**12** **2004:** Cheney says in campaign speech "Those who threaten us and kill innocents around the world… need to be destroyed."
13 **2004:** Russian Orthodox says the Pope not welcome in Russia **2004:** 3 horses die in Omak Stampede Suicide Race	**14** **2003:** Rebels end siege in Liberia **2004:** Burundian Hutu rebels w/ machetes, automatic weapons kill 180 Tutsis in UN camp	**15** **1935:** Will Rogers dies in Alaska plane crash **1975:** Joanne Little acquitted in Raleigh, NC of killing a white jailer in self-defence	**16** **2004:** Sen Harken calls Cheney coward for not serving in Vietnam **2004:** Israeli court orders pro-Palestinian US activist deported	**17** **2004:** OH U prof wore anti-Kerry t-shirt to Kerry rally, anti-Bush to Bush rally; Kerry folks say zip, Bush rally made him take it off	**18** **2004:** Workers strike at Volkswagen's Mexican plant **2003**: Israel will go on confiscating Palestinian land to build wall	**19** **2004:** Study in medical journal says US military doctors collaborated w/ interrogators in abuse at Abu Ghraib prison
20 **1998:** US missiles hit pharmaceutical factory in Sudan and a compound in Afghanistan US claimed bin Laden was present	**21** **2004:** Man fired from job at ad firm after heckling Bush at a political rally which offended a client who provided tickets to event	**22** **2003:** Annan warns US won't get UN force in Iraq w/o shared decisionmaking **2004:** Group Health nurses go on strike	**23** **1998:** Nat'l Security Adviser asked on CNN Late Edition why nothing has been found at bombed Sudan factory but pharmaceuticals	**24** **2003:** Bands Against Bush rally downtown **2004:** Cheney opposes banning gay marriage; "Freedom means freedom for everyone"	**25** **2004:** Distraught father who had just been told his Marine son was killed in Iraq set himself and a Marine van on fire in Hollywood	**26** **2003:** *Seattle Times* reports fed prosecutors have arranged to sell 1.6 million packs of cigarettes confiscated in WA and ID
27 **2004:** Fire retardants have been found in Puget Sound orcas **2004:** Study of factory overseas reveals workers still suffer abuse	**28** **2004:** Former TX House Speaker Ben Barnes says he helped GW, other sons of wealthy families get into TX Nat'l Guard	**29** **2003:** Alaskan state appeals court rules law banning Alaskans from possessing marijuana in their homes unconstitutional	**30** **1996:** Arlo Guthrie holds benefit concert for Olympia AIDS Prevention Project, the Liberation Cafe, and Works In Progress	**31** **2003:** US workers are most productive, they put in more hours **2004:** Gov Locke, other statewide elected officials get 2% raise	What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans, and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty and democracy? Gandhi	

They broke the public's heart

If only the full scope of the settler's deeds had been told

By Gideon Levy

The media is to blame: for months, it portrayed the story of the "great sacrifice" the evacuated settlers must make. For years, it ignored the injustices they inflicted on their neighbors and thus helped portray the settlers in a false light. The result: broad public sympathy for their bitter fate and shock over their brutal behavior, as if blocking roads or even the lynching of a Palestinian teenager is something new or unusual. But in the territories, the settlers have been violently blocking roads for years, and harsh brutality toward Palestinians is also nothing new. The only novelty is that suddenly they are showing this on television.

> The evacuators and evacuees are described as "weeping together." Soldiers who destroyed and killed in the territories without inhibition are suddenly in need of emotional support. In this way, the price of the evacuation is raised and the next evacuation is prevented.

If the media had exposed the full scope of the settlers' deeds over the years - the dubious ways in which they took over land, the huge budgets they received, their violent behavior - perhaps they would have been denounced long ago, as should be done by a healthy society. If their full story had been told, perhaps we would not have blindly subscribed to the distinction between "moderate" and "extreme" settlers, to their portrayal as modern day pioneers and to the sugary and hypocritical preaching for dialogue with them. Israeli society chose to be led by their cynical manipulations, and we journalists lent a hand to this. "A leftist mafia?" What a ridiculous contention. Never has there been such an impressive media success here as that of the right. An enterprise that was criminal from the outset was depicted as one of high principles, even by people who favor compromise with the Palestinians. It was portrayed as an enterprise worthy of sympathy and appreciation, mainly comprised of idealists - and even if some stray weeds sprouted there, they were just an exception.

This false conception is now collapsing - the conception of this illegitimate enterprise's legitimacy, fostered by politicians, military personnel and journalists. The rotten fruits of this distorted description are now placed at our doorstep - at Muasi, Maoz Yam, Tal Yam, the blocked highways of Israel, tire spikes and all of the other expressions of violence.

For several months, the media has devoted inflated coverage to the suffering of the evacuees, and we are subject to heartrending and senseless descriptions. Every teenage girl from Gush Katif who pours out her heart in a diary is awarded a tear-jerking column, every rabbi becomes a profound philosopher and every housewife an angry prophet. Every piece of land cultivated by Palestinian and Thai workers employed under disgraceful conditions becomes part of the sacred homeland, and the relocation of inhabitants under deluxe terms is presented as uprooting and rending. The evacuators and evacuees are described as "weeping together." Soldiers who destroyed and killed in the territories without inhibition are suddenly in need of emotional support. In this way, the price of the evacuation is raised and the next evacuation is prevented. There is no proportion between the suffering of the evacuees - to whom the state is extending generous assistance in every area - and the lamentation over them. These spin doctors, the settlers, pluck every string, from their children to the graves of their family members, to create an image of victimhood. It is no wonder the country is painted orange.

Suddenly we are showing a rare sensitivity for human suffering. Tens of thousands of Palestinians were expelled from their homes, as their homes, with all of their possessions, were crushed by Israel Defense Forces bulldozers, without warning, without compensation, without evacuation. The hundreds of families whose homes were expropriated for various purposes, the farmers dispossessed of their lands, the uprooted trees and the children who silently witnessed the brutality - these were never given even a fraction of the media coverage the settlers have received.

Foreign workers who are hunted as animals and violently deported, and even the impoverished in Israel - those evacuated from their homes, with their children, due to debt and mortgages, the unemployed who are down to their last loaf of bread, and miserable homeless people who roam the streets - can only dream of such broad and sympathetic media coverage.

On the other hand, the dark side is concealed. How much, if at all, has the Israeli public been shown the hundreds of homes in Khan Yunis, those surrounding Gush Katif, that were destroyed only because of the Gush's existence? Or the acts of vengeance and the terrorizing of olive harvesters in northern Samaria? Or the abuse of cave dwellers in the southern Hebron Hills? Or the behavior of settlers at IDF checkpoints? Who knows how much money was channeled to their enterprise over the years? Even the excellent book by Idit Zartel and Akiva Eldar, "Lords of the Land," did not succeed in exposing the full scope of these budgets. Did we know how much a Palestinian laborer earns at the Gush Katif hothouses, those over which everyone is now shedding crocodile tears? Have we heard that about 60 percent of Gush Katif residents have at least one family member who enjoys a salary from the state? Have they shown us the neglect that prevailed in the Gush until a few months ago and the recent effort to patch up homes for purposes of compensation?

This dubious enterprise was kept in a fog over the years, and in this fog it sprouted and grew to its current dimensions. Now, when its true nature is beginning to be exposed, a reckoning should be made not only with those responsible for its monstrous growth, but also with those who failed to expose the full truth about it during all these years.

Gideon Levy writes for Ha'aretz, where this article originally appeared.

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Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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A Warning from Israel

What may come after evacuation of Jewish settlers from Gaza Strip

by Uri Davis, Ilan Pappe, and Tamar Yaron

We feel it is urgent and necessary to raise the alarm regarding what may come during and after evacuation of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip occupied by Israel in 1967, in the event the evacuation is implemented.

We held back on getting this statement published and circulated, seeking additional feedback from our peers. The publication in Ha'aretz (22 June 2005) quoting statements by General (Reserves) Eival Giladi, head of the Coordination and Strategy team of the Prime Minister's Office, motivated us not to delay publication and circulation any further. Confirming our worst fears, General (Res.) Eival Giladi went on record in print and on television to the effect that "Israel will act in a very resolute manner in order to prevent terror attacks and [militant] fire while the disengagement is being implemented" and "if pinpoint response proves insufficient, we may have to use weaponry that causes major collateral damage, including helicopters and planes, with mounting danger to surrounding people."

We believe one primary, unstated motive for the determination of the government of the State of Israel to get the Jewish settlers of the Qatif (Katif) settlement block out of the Gaza Strip may be to keep them out of harm's way when the Israeli government and military possibly trigger an intensified mass attack on the approximately one and a half million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, of whom about half are 1948 Palestine refugees.

The scenario could be similar to what has already happened in the past - a tactic Ariel Sharon has used many times in his military career - i.e., utilizing provocation in order to launch massive attacks.

Following this pattern, we believe that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz are considering to utilize provocation for vicious attacks in the near future on the approximately one and a half million Palestinian inhabitants of the Gaza Strip: a possible combination of intensified state terror and mass killing. The Israeli army is not likely to risk the kind of casualties to its soldiers that would be involved in employing ground troops on a large scale in the Gaza Strip. With General Dan Halutz as Chief of Staff they don't need to. It was General Dan Halutz, in his capacity as Commander of the Israeli Air Force, who authorized the bombing of a civilian Gaza City quarter with a bomb weighing one ton, and then went on record as saying that he sleeps well and the only thing he feels when dropping a bomb is a slight bump of the aircraft.

The initiators of this alarm have been active for many decades in the defense of human rights inside the State of Israel and beyond. We do not have the academic evidence to support our feeling, but given past behavior, ideological leanings and current media spin initiated by the Israeli government and military, we believe that the designs of the State of Israel are clear, and we submit that our educated intuition with matters pertaining to the defence of human rights has been more often correct than otherwise.

We urge all those who share the concern above to add their names to ours and urgently give this alarm as wide a circulation as possible.

Circulating and publishing this text may constitute a significant factor in deterring the Israeli government, thus protecting the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip from this very possible catastrophe and contributing to prevent yet more war crimes from occurring.

Uri Davis, Sakhnin, uridavis@actcom.co.il ; Ilan Pappe, Tiv'on, pappe@poli.haifa.ac.il ; and Tamar Yaron, Kibbutz Hazorea, tiyaron@hazorea.org.il

Venezuela: The next oil war?

By Clif Ross

MÉRIDA, VENEZUELA - The State oil company of Venezuela, PDVSA (Petroleos De Venezuela, Sociedad Anonima), has confirmed the discovery of four billion square feet of natural gas in western Venezuela, believed in June to have only been 2 billion square feet. It also confirmed that it possesses the largest single reserve of oil in the world. In addition to the estimated 78 billion barrels of conventional oil reserves, there are 235 billion more barrels – estimates which include a lower-grade petroleum known as Orimulsion - in the Rio Orinoco region. This means that Venezuela possesses under her soil nearly fifty percent of the total amount of oil in the entire Middle East. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Iran and Qatar have a combined total of 676 billion barrels while Venezuela´s total alone is 313 billion barrels.

Hugo Chávez El Presidente de Venezuela

This might go a long way in explaining why the Bush Administration has made extensive plans for an the invasion of Venezuela. Plans for a joint U.S.-NATO invasion of Venezuela date back to May 3, 2001, according to an article published in last week´s edition of Venezuelan weekly "Las Verdades de Miguel." The plan was dubbed "Operation Balboa" and drawn up by Southern Command under George Bush, according to the report, written by José Luis Carpio. The invasion had as its objective to "remove Hugo Chavez from power, using the same strategy employed in the war against Iraq" with a massive midnight bombing campaign, followed by an invasion and occupation of the country.

President Hugo Chavez mentioned Operation Balboa on Sunday, July 3, in his weekly television show, Alo Presidente, but without offering details. At that time Chavez said he knew "in detail" about the plan and he also proposed an "Operation Counter Balboa," an operation which may already be underway.

For several months now the Venezuelan Military has been conducting joint exercises with the civilian population in preparation for national emergencies like "earthquakes, tsunamis and invasions by foreign forces." They have also made recent purchases of 100,000 small arms and helicopters from Russia and begun developing plans to build up a national civilian defense force to repel any foreign aggression.

"Operation Balboa" appears not to have been implemented beyond the design stage, but neither have the plans been scrapped. According to Carpio, "The plans presented by the North Americans continue in effect and the possibility remains, according to the sources of information that have been consulted, of the appearance of unidentified groups attacking U.S. citizens or interests, which would give greater justification for an intervention." This latter scenario may already be in the works and has historical precedents dating back all the way to the Mexican American War.

Under President Andrew Jackson the U.S. made military incursions into Mexico numerous times to provoke an attack on their soldiers for an excuse for the war in which the U.S. carried away half of Mexico as war booty. Prior to the invasion of Panama in December of 1989 the U.S. provoked attacks on U.S. personnel by running roadblocks, attacking and insulting Panamanian Defense Forces, and this provided the pretext for the eventual invasion.

In a situation reminiscent of the CIA's terrorist war against Sandinista Nicaragua in the 1980s, these "unidentified groups" Carpio mentioned, known as paramilitaries, are currently operating along the Colombia-Venezuela border. Like the Contras, they are sustained by cocaine money, and, it is suspected, the Venezuelan oligarchy and U.S. government, and the work of these paramilitaries is not only to instill terror in the local population. Over the past few years they have also been responsible for killing over 100 peasant leaders committed to the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela.

The plan, according to Diario Vea, seems to be "to clear important peasant areas of Bolivarian activists" with the aim of creating "areas of civil war" and this civil war, in turn, "would offer a pretext to North American circles for an intervention in Venezuela."(Diario Vea, July 7, 2005).

Venezuelan weekly, Quinto Dia, (July 1-8, 2005 edition) reports incursions by U.S. Marines into Venezuelan territory from bases in Colombia. Although officially denied by both the U.S. and Venezuelan military authorities in Caracas, residents along the Rio Arauca insist that "the marines have already detained people in Venezuelan territory, taking them into Colombia where they're tortured or threatened."

> Free Trade of the Americas has been pronounced "dead on arrival" by Chavez who has counterproposed the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas, a fair trade program that would aid the poorest nations in the region.

Other U.S. plans to destroy the Bolivarian Revolution appear to include the assassination of Pres. Chavez, the orchestration of a civil war as pretext for intervention and the purchase of the forthcoming Venezuelan municipal elections set for August 7. Rumors of assassination attempts have been swirling around Caracas for several weeks and at least one arrest was made of a man with a sniper's rifle and several thousand dollars in cash at hand.

Security for Pres. Chavez has been stepped up; however, the new measures don't seem to have affected the pace of his seemingly constant public life.

There is virtually no united opposition to Chavez at the national level. Nevertheless, the state of Zulia was one of two states left in the hands of the opposition to Chavez and the Bolivarian project after the last elections in October, 2004, which represented the eighth electoral victory that Chavez enjoyed, the MVR taking twenty-two of twenty four states. Now a movement, led by business leaders, is afoot to declare the independence of resource-rich Zulia from the rest of the country, an effort reportedly backed by U.S. Ambassador William Brownfield. Such an effort to "Balkanize" Venezuela seems highly unlikely to meet with success, but it could cause a tense situation and create a pretext for direct U.S. intervention to "restore order."

Finally, the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela has made it clear that the elections are not for sale and it has begun legal proceedings against leaders of the opposition group, Súmate, for taking money from the U.S. and other foreign governments so as to subvert Venezuela's democracy, an act universally defined as treason. Súmate's strategy seems to be to boycott the elections and discredit the democratic institutions of Venezuela. Their strategy, however, is only having the effect of further disintegrating, and destroying the credibility of, the opposition to Chavez.

Regardless of what poison the U.S. may be brewing up for Venezuela´s democracy, the plan will more than likely backfire. The Bush Administration is notoriously bad at strategy, as the Iraq morass has demonstrated. By contrast, Chavez is a master strategist, coming as he does from a lifetime of military training. Free Trade of the Americas has been pronounced "dead on arrival" by Chavez who has counterproposed the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas, a fair trade program that would aid the poorest nations in the region. To the Bush anti-Chavez propaganda campaign, carried out obediently by the mass media, Chavez has launched a counter-offensive with Telesur, a regional network now in the beginning stages of development. For every blundering move of the Empire, Chavez has countered and won as Latin America unites behind Venezuela in an alliance against the U.S. that is stronger each day.

Chavez has sworn that if the U.S. makes an attempt on his life, Venezuela won´t sell another drop of oil to the U.S. With Chavez´s popularity now standing at 80.5%, the nation sitting on top of the greatest energy wealth of any one nation in the world, and Latin American unity continuing apace under Chavez´s leadership, the Bolivarian Revolution is holding a full house to Bush´s bluff. The neocons have met their strategic match in Chavez and it might pay off better in the long run to fold now than to continue raising the stakes --and risk losing the whole pot.

Muzzling Saddam

Old bait-and-switch in Iraqi jurisprudence

By Greg Weiher

On Sunday, Iraq announced that it would try Saddam Hussein and three others for the deaths of 140 Iraqis in Dujail, the site of an attempt on his life in 1982. National Public Radio's story about the announcement was a masterpiece of understatement.

NPR reporter Tom Bullock allowed as how it might seem strange that Saddam was being tried for a relatively minor crime compared to gas attacks on Iraqi Kurds or the brutal repression of Iraq's Shiite majority after the first Gulf War, actions that killed thousands of Iraqis. But he explained that Iraqi investigators "are clear" that they have chosen this particular incident as the cause for prosecution because it is a "straightforward case involving strong enough evidence to convict Saddam Hussein and the others charged." So, according to Tom, that explains it. It's just a technical thing, a matter of good jurisprudence, you see?

> A trial of Saddam Hussein would likely be a minefield for the Bush Administration.

On the other hand, any number of observers have pointed out that a trial of Saddam Hussein would likely be a minefield for the Bush Administration. In a trial, Saddam would have the opportunity to take the stand and explain in excruciating detail where he got his weapons of mass destruction, and how when he used them against Kurds in Halabja, the U.S. didn't seem upset at all, and when he used chemical weapons against Iran the U.S. didn't withdraw their support ¬ indeed, they continued to provide assistance in the form of intelligence and weapons. He could talk about Donald Rumsfeld's friendly visit to Baghdad as all of this was transpiring. He could point out the U.S. had nothing but good things to say about him until he moved into Kuwait. And speaking from the podium of the witness stand, he could not be censored, and his voice would reach to every corner of the world.

In that light, is it surprising the basis of the trial will be a relatively contained incident that did not involve chemical weapons? A trial in which, if Saddam or his lawyers try to raise issues of U.S. and western complicity in his dirty deeds in the past, the judge can simply rule such testimony irrelevant? And is it surprising that this is a death-penalty case? All they have to do is convict him on this one, then execute him, and he disappears as a potential embarrassment.

And would it have been too much to expect Tom Bullock and NPR to point any of this out?

Greg Weiher is a political scientist and freelance writer living in Houston, Texas. He can be reached at gweiher@uh.edu.

Olympia workers laid off, sourced out!

Sandra Miller attempts to bust Ramada union

By Richard Sawyer, Principal Officer, UNITE HERE! Local 8

The Ramada Inn Governor House is outsourcing Union jobs with affordable health and dental insurance to an outside company. With tactics looking like they were taken straight out of a handbook for Wal-Mart executives, Sandra Miller, manager of the Ramada Inn Governor House in Olympia, positions herself on the forefront of a race to the bottom in wages and benefits.

> It is our strong suspicion that Sandra Miller's move is a very convenient pretense to get rid of a Union she has been opposing for many years.

Instead of improving the last contract offer and providing workers with affordable health care and livable wages, the Ramada Inn Governor House Hotel laid off their food and beverage employees and will outsource Union jobs to an outside company.

Already the last and final offer presented to the worker's Union UNITE HERE! Local 8 during recent negotiations for a new contract was an insult to the hard-working restaurant staff, many of them loyal long-term employees. According to the management's proposal, most of the workers would have earned poverty wages just barely above minimum wage.

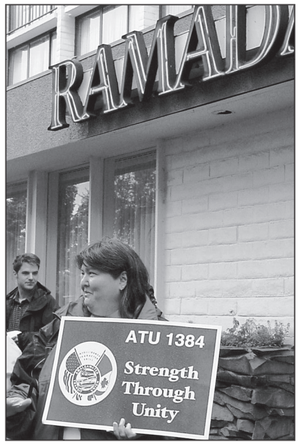
In a memorandum sent out to state legislators on June 10th, Sandra Miller claims the Ramada Inn Governor House is "offering above scale wages and benefits for our marketplace." An unbelievable exaggeration considering the fact that pantry cooks earned $7.48 per hour and a dishwasher's hourly earnings used to be minimum wage at $7.35. Wages at the nearby Red Lion Hotel were about $2.00 higher in almost every classification.

Sandra Miller's idea of dealing with increasing insurance costs was to completely eliminate the current affordable medical plan and replace it with a $2,500/$5,000 deductible health insurance plan. A worker making minimum wage could not afford to pay the first $2,500, even if the hotel contributed a small monthly amount to a health savings account. People do not get injured in a perfect calendar year, and any worker who had to pay back-to-back calendar year deductibles of $2,500 for themselves or $5,000 for their family could be forced into bankruptcy.

During negotiations with the Union, the possibility of laying off the restaurant workforce was never mentioned by company representatives. One has to assume, however, that plans to take such a major step were already in place at that time. The Union's demands in those negotiations were pretty moderate considering the Ramada Inn is one of the lowest paying hotels in the State of Washington. The company was asked to come up with a plan to slowly close the gap in wages to other hotels in the area and keep the current medical plan.

Instead of being responsive and negotiating in good faith, the company announced on June 15th, only 5 days after assuring state legislators that the company is doing their "best to be fair to the employees while balancing the health of the business", that all food and beverage employees would lose their jobs in July due to an "entrepreneurial decision".

As of this writing, the Ramada Inn Governor House restaurant has been closed "indefinitely". Closing the restaurant does not make a lot of economic sense and takes away desperately needed income and access to healthcare from 12 workers and their families. Instead of firing her employees, Sandra Miller could have taken a more productive approach to solve the problems she is facing with her restaurant.



Intercity Transit worker from ATU Local 1384 and Pizza Time striker Joe Connor stand in solidarity with laid off Ramada Inn workers.

The Olympian newspaper reviewed the hotel's Guberz restaurant on March 24th, awarding a devastating 1.5 of 5 possible stars. This should have been encouragement enough for Sandra Miller to work on improving the restaurant's performance. There are numerous ways to accomplish that, and all of them involve keeping existing jobs and even adding new ones. The Mon Ami Gabi Restaurant, a Union facility located inside the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, was rated no. 9 of the R&I Top 100 Independent Restaurants in the United States in 2004. Clearly the two locations cannot be compared directly, but the example shows that hotel restaurants can be run successfully while still providing good livable wages and good health benefits for its workers. Instead of being smart and improving the dining experience her restaurant has to offer together with her employees, Sandra Miller's way of being "fair" to her workers equals firing 12 people in order to increase profits for the company.

> Instead of firing her employees, Sandra Miller could have taken a more productive approach to solve the problems she is facing with her restaurant.

Besides this morally and economically questionable rationale, closing the restaurant could also serve another equally disturbing purpose. It is our strong suspicion that Sandra Miller's move is a very convenient pretense to get rid of a Union she has been opposing for many years. Already in 2001, Sandra Miller tried to start a decertification campaign against her front desk workers, who are part of the Teamsters Union. In a memorandum to employees she stated: "We don't believe that employees need the Teamsters or any other union to represent them. I think we'd all be better off without the union." This summer, her words were finally followed by actions. Outsourcing jobs as seen in this case is considered union busting by UNITE HERE! Local 8.

Employers like Sandra Miller put the health and vitality of the entire community at risk. Families lose their source of income and become part of the growing number of Americans who are uninsured, parents will have to work multiple jobs and therefore have less time for their children, and some of the workers will have to rely on the tax-paying community in the form of unemployment benefits.

Members of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) demand justice for the Ramada workers and direct that message to Governor House manager, Sandra Miller.

There should be no way Sandra Miller can set a precedent and get away with this kind of behavior. She is sending out a signal to other employers to do exactly the same thing. In order to make sure working families in Olympia do not lose their vital source of income, please support the workers in their struggle.

Send a letter of support for the workers to the hotel's general manager, Sandra Miller, and let her know that you are not willing to spend your hard-earned income at a hotel that tries to bust a Union and destroys the livelihood of working families just to increase profits. Send her an email to 198@hotel.cendant.com or send a Fax to (360) 943-9349.

No Justice, No Pizza

by Wally Cuddeford

July 20th, Day 159 of the Pizza Time strike, felt like Day 1 all over again. That was because the strikers picked up their picket signs once again in response to plans to reopen the store. The disputes that put them on strike in February are long past. This time, they're on the picket line to get their jobs back, and to unionize the workplace.

The whole story started back in February. Shane Bloking, who bought the store at that time, used racial slurs on the job and fired two people, one presumably for not being white. He also changed store policies that undermined pizza quality and inhibited the ability of the workers to take pride in their work. The workers, including then manager Alex Wentz, met and agreed to present Bloking a list of demands, including the reinstating of the two fired employees and assurances that nobody would ever be fired again without just cause. Bloking rejected these demands, and so the workers went on strike.

Bloking "fired" all of them for going on strike, and then hired a replacement staff. This only lasted a week. Thanks to help from community groups, like the local chapter of the Industrial Workers of the World, and the support of the community at large, sales plummeted so low that the store could not stay open. It closed its doors, and remained closed for the past five months, with the only official word being a sign on the door that said "Closed for remodeling."

In the meantime, the workers continued their struggle for workplace justice, even without an open store to focus on. They were consulting with local labor leaders to assess their rights and options. Flyers were distributed at events like Arts Walk, explaining why the store was closed. Fundraiser benefits were held on behalf of the strikers. The workers helped found the Olympia Workers Association, an organization to support local workers in their labor struggles, as they had been supported when they needed it. Through this organization, they supported other local causes, such as by walking the picket line with the Ramada Inn workers who were being fired for unionizing, and by baking pizzas for strikers at the Global Women's Strike.

> *The striking workers are arranging negotiations over a union contract, and are even speaking to the replacement workers in the hopes that they will join the drive to unionize.*

Recent events have brought the strike back into full swing. Shane Bloking is long gone, and new owners reopened the franchise. They were told before buying the store that there had been a labor dispute, but they were not told the extent of it. The Olympia Workers Association, on behalf of the striking workers, tried many times to arrange a meeting with the new owners to discuss bringing the striking workers back to work. Heath Flores, one of the new owners, claimed that the new store constitutes a new franchise and that he had no legal obligation to meet with the striking workers at all. Flores tried to meet with some of the strikers individually and not as a group, and he said the striking workers could apply through the normal hiring process and compete to be hired that way, thus breaking their solidarity.

While it's true that the new owners had nothing at all to do with the original conditions that sent the workers out on strike, they bought into that situation and have to respond appropriately. They have an obligation to uphold all the implications of the business they bought into, whether profitable or precarious. Being fired for going on strike is not the same as being fired in itself. It is an unjust labor-busting tactic. The workers were unjustly fired by Shane Bloking for going on strike, and if the new owners truly wanted to eradicate the mistakes of the previous owner, they should have immediately restored the business to the way it was before Bloking turned it into a quagmire.

Rumor said the store was reopening on Wednesday, July 20th, so the striking Pizza Time workers and community supporters came back out to pick up the picket signs. Their new demands are: The new owners must reinstate all of the striking workers who want their jobs back; the new owners must recognize the workers' right to unionize; and job security must be guaranteed at Pizza Time, so nothing like the unwarranted firings in February can ever happen again. The demands do not include anything about a pay raise, simply that the workers who went on strike in February be returned to work.

The store did not actually open on the 20th. The new owners and replacement workers were doing preparatory work to open the next day, but the strikers still started the picket line back up on that day anyway. Many people on that day had the same question: "Again?" "Nope. Still."

At first, Flores claimed he supported the strikers' right to demonstrate, but in the following days, he filed charges against them through the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). A representative of the NLRB approached the strikers and told them all the reasons why the owners had every right to shut them out and why the strikers had no legal recourse. She said the NLRB was leaning towards issuing a legal injunction prohibiting the strikers from picketing outside the store. The strikers, in a show of good faith, put away their "On strike" signs and brandished signs that ambiguously said "Support local workers," but were prepared to continue the campaign with or without the NLRB's blessing.

The response of the community was clear. Business at Pizza Time was close to none. The corner of 4th and Jefferson was an endless concert of car horns and screams in support of the strikers. Community members joined the picket line with the strikers, and others brought ice cream and drinks on the hot days. It was clear the community supported the strikers, and it was clear the strikers were not backing down.

Since the picketing was such a huge success, the striking workers have temporarily put down their picket signs as of the writing of this article. The store is not getting enough business to function, and without a surge in business from people who would patronize a unionized pizza shop, it will certainly close its doors again. That would mean the striking workers would lose their jobs, the owners would lose the store they have put money into, and also the replacement workers would lose their jobs. In light of this, the striking workers are arranging negotiations over a union contract, and are even speaking to the replacement workers in the hopes that they will join the drive to unionize. This would help the union meet legal requirements for minimal participation, thus helping the strikers get their jobs back for good, and would stop the replacements from losing their new jobs.

This battle, however, is far from won. The striking workers still need your support if they are to win the fight and become a legal union. The striking Pizza Time workers greatly appreciate all the community support they have received, and want to thank you for making this a labor friendly city! Solidarity!

Stop by the corner of 4th and Jefferson periodically for updates on the progress of the Pizza Time worker struggle. Also visit www.olympiaworkers.org .

Local citizens join the picket-line with Ramada workers.

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Judith Miller's crime

Mr. Rove and the Access of Evil

by Greg Palast

The only thing more evil, small-minded and treacherous than the Bush Administration's jailing Judith Miller for a crime the Bush Administration committed, is Judith Miller covering up her Bush Administration "source."

Judy, Karl Rove ain't no "source." A confidential source -- and I've worked with many -- is an insider ready to put himself on the line to blow the whistle on an official lie or hidden danger. I would protect a source's name with my life and fortune as would any journalist who's not a craven jerk (the Managing Editor of Time Magazine comes to mind).

> A Karl Rove or Rove-like creature peddling a back-door smear doesn't make him a source. Miller's real crime is not concealing a source, but burying the story.

But the weasel who whispered "Valerie Plame" in Miller's ear was no source. Whether it was Karl Rove or some other Rove-tron inside the Bush regime (and no one outside Bush's band would have had this information), this was an official using his official info to commit a crime for the sole purpose of punishing a REAL whistleblower, Joseph Wilson, Plame's husband, for questioning our President's mythological premise for war in Iraq.

New York Times reporter Miller and her paper would rather she go to prison for four months than identify their "source." Why?

Part of her oddball defense is that The Times never ran the story about Wilson's wife. They get no points for that. The Times *should* have run the story with the headline: Bush operative commits felony to punish whistleblower. The lead paragraph should have been, "Today, Mr. K--- R--- [or other slime ball as appropriate] attempted to plant sensitive intelligence information on *The New York Times*, a felony offense, in an attempt to harm former Ambassador Joseph Wilson who challenged the President's claim regarding Iraq's nuclear program."

A Karl Rove or Rove-like creature peddling a back-door smear doesn't make him a source. Miller's real crime is not concealing a source, but burying the story. A reporter should never, ever give notes to a grand jury, but this information is something The Times owes the public, not the prosecutors.

Why didn't The Times run this story? Why not now? Who are they covering for and why?

Maybe the problem for The Times is that this is the same "source" that used Miller to promote, as fact, her ersatz report before the invasion of Iraq that Saddam truly had nukes and bugs and chemicals he could launch at Los Angeles. That "source" too needs publication, Judy.

Every rule has an exception. My mama always told me to "compliment the chef" at dinner. But that doesn't apply when the chef pees in your soup. Likewise, there's an exception to the rule of source protection. When officialdom uses "you-can't-use-my- name" to cover a lie, the official is not a source, but a disinformation propagandist -- and Miller and The Times have been all too willing to play Izvestia to the Bush's Kremlinesque prevarications.

And that is what Miller is protecting: the evil called "access."

The great poison in the corpus of American journalism is the lust for tidbits of supposedly "inside" information which is more often than not inside misinformation parading as hot news.

And thus we have Miller sucking on the steaming sewage pipe of White House lies about Iraq and spitting it out in the pages of The Times as "investigative reporting," for which The Times has apologized. Likewise, we had the embarrassment of Bob Woodward's special access to the Oval Office after the September 11 attacks when Woodward reported the exclusive news that the President was a flawless commander in chief in the war on terror -- for which Woodward has yet to apologize.

While reporting from the Potemkin village of decision-making set up for him at the White House, Woodward missed the real story that, in the words of the Downing Street memo, our leaders were losing track of Osama while they spent their time "fixing the intelligence" on Iraq. Even if Woodward learned of it, would he have reported it at the risk of losing his access to evil?

As Karl Rove chuckles and Judy does time, we are left to ask, What are Miller and The New York Times doing: protecting the name of a source or covering up their conduit to the Bush gang's machinery of deception?

One can only be sympathetic to Miller for choosing jail over bending to the power of the State. But as T.S. Eliot said, "the last temptation is the greatest treason, to do the right deed for the wrong reason."

Greg Palast is author of the NY Times *bestseller, The Best Democracy Money Can Buy. Subscribe to his commentaries or view his investigative reports for BBC Television at www.GregPalast.com*

It's one thing for reporters to protect a brave whistle-blower who has taken personal risks to serve the public interest. It is another thing for reporters to collude with the powerful to punish the whistle-blower, in this case Joseph Wilson, and his wife, an innocent bystander. Robert Kuttner, *The American Prospect*

Nuclear Free Olympia

The U.S. victory in the cold war never ended the threat of nuclear holocaust. Our nuclear arsenal still includes 2,000 warheads on hair-trigger alert - ready to launch on 15 minutes notice – each warhead has the power of 20 Hiroshimas. Russia has a similar number of trip-wire warheads aimed at us – only their early warning system is deteriorating. Both nations register alarms daily, triggered by wildfires, satellite launchings and solar reflections off clouds or oceans.

The Olympia City Council is considering a proposal to declare Olympia a Nuclear Free Zone - in order to take a stand against the march toward nuclear war. This is not merely a symbolic measure; the proposal considered would outlaw all use of city money for such purposes – including doing business with private contractors involved in nuclear weapons development or production. This would follow the cities unanimous endorsement of the Mayors for Peace campaign in February 2005, seeking total elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

Please contact the Olympia City Council to thank them for endorsing the Mayors for Peace resolution and considering the proposal to declare Olympia a Nuclear Free Zone. Please ask them to pass the "Nuke Free Olympia" proposal into law, and to adopt a version with teeth.

Olympia City Council, PO Box 1967, Olympia, WA 98507-1967
citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us

"I would characterize current U.S. nuclear weapons policy as immoral, illegal, militarily unnecessary, and dreadfully dangerous. The risk of an accidental or inadvertent nuclear launch is unacceptably high. Far from reducing these risks, the Bush administration has signaled that it is committed to keeping the U.S. nuclear arsenal as a mainstay of its military power—a commitment that is simultaneously eroding the international norms that have limited the spread of nuclear weapons and fissile materials for 50 years." - Robert McNamara, Apocalypse Soon, Foreign Affair May/June 2005

"The nuclear weapons labs, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos, are currently designing, building and testing new nuclear weapons -- violating the letter and the law of the Complete Test Ban Treaty…" Dr. Helen Caldicott, Founder of Physicians For Social Responsibility

"I propose that we agree that outer space should be used only for peaceful purposes. We face a decisive moment in history in relation to this matter.… Should not outer space be dedicated to the peaceful uses of mankind and denied to the purposes of war?" President Eisenhower – 1958

"… I would think that eventually we're going to have to have capabilities to take things out in orbit," Gen. Michael Ryan – August 2001

"… Every medium - air, land and sea – has seen conflict. Space will be no different … this virtual certainty … will require superior space capabilities … " Report of the Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management and Organization – Donald Rumsfeld, Chairman, January 11, 2001

"Space superiority is not our birthright, but it is our destiny. Space superiority is our day-to-day mission. Space supremacy is our vision for the future." Air Force General Lance Lord

Air force doctrine defines superiority as "freedom to attack as well as freedom from attack' in space.

For info contact Olympia Movement For Justice and Peace at www.omjp.org

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A real crisis – health care – is ignored as the Social Security non-crisis roars on

by Noam Chomsky

In the debate over Social Security, US President Bush's handlers have already won, at least in the short term. Bush and Karl Rove, his deputy chief of staff, have succeeded in convincing most of the US population that there is a serious problem with Social Security, which opens the way for considering the administration's program of private accounts instead of relying on the public pension system.

The public has been frightened, much as it was by the imminent threat of Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction.

The pressure on politicians is rising as leaders in the US House of Representatives hope to draft Social Security legislation.

For perspective, perhaps it should be noted that Social Security is one of the least generous public pension systems among advanced countries, according to a new report by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The Bush administration wants to "reform" Social Security — meaning dismantle it. A huge government-media propaganda campaign has concocted a "fiscal crisis" that doesn't exist. If some problem does arise in the distant future, it could be overcome by trivial measures, such as raising the cap on the regressive payroll tax.

The official story is that the Baby Boomers are going to impose a greater burden on the system because the number of working people relative to the elderly will decline, which is true.

But what happened to the Baby Boomers when they were zero to 20? Weren't working people taking care of them? And it was a much poorer society then.

In the 1960s the demographics caused a problem but hardly a crisis. The bulge was met by a big increase in expenditures in schools and other facilities for children. The problem wasn't huge when the Baby Boomers were zero to 20, so why when they're 70 to 90?

The relevant number is what's called the dependency ratio of working people to population. That ratio reached its lowest point in 1965. It won't reach that point again until 2080, according to Social Security Administration figures.

Projections that far ahead are meaningless. Furthermore, any fiscal problem that might arise in caring for the elderly "boomers" has already been paid for, by the payroll tax rise of 1983, designed for this purpose. And by the time the last "boomer" has died, the society will be far richer, with each worker producing far greater wealth.

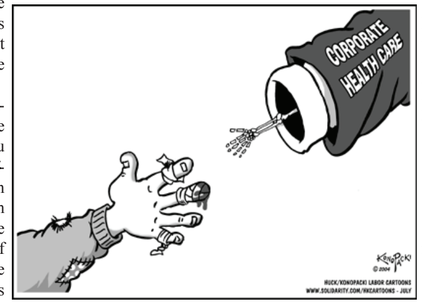
> You can't go after a health system under the control of insurance companies and pharmaceutical corporations. That system is immune, even if it is causing tremendous financial problems, besides the human cost.

In other words, we're already past the crisis. Anything that comes is just a matter of one or another kind of adjustment.

Meanwhile a very real fiscal crisis is looming: namely, medical care. The United States has one of the most inefficient systems in the industrialized world, with per-capita costs far higher than other nations and among the worst health outcomes. The system is privatized, one reason why it's so inefficient.

But "reforming" the health care system is not on the agenda. So we face an apparent paradox: The real and very serious fiscal crisis is no crisis, and the non-crisis requires drastic action to undermine an efficient system that is quite sound.

Rational observers will seek differences between the Social Security and health care systems that might explain the paradox.



The reasons are simple. You can't go after a health system under the control of insurance companies and pharmaceutical corporations. That system is immune, even if it is causing tremendous financial problems, besides the human cost.

Social Security is of little value for the rich but is crucial for survival for working people, the poor, their dependents and the disabled. And as a government program, it has such low administrative costs that it offers nothing to financial institutions. It benefits only the "underlying population," not the "substantial citizens," to borrow Thorstein Veblen's acid terminology.

The medical system, however, works very well for the people who matter in a system where health care is effectively rationed by wealth, and enormous profits flow to private power for highly inefficient management. The underlying population can be treated with lectures on responsibility.

The US Congress has recently enacted bankruptcy reform that tightens the stranglehold on the underlying population. About half of US bankruptcies result from medical bills.

Opinion and official policy are out of step. As in the past, most Americans favor national health insurance. In a 2003 Washington Post-ABC News poll, 80 per cent regarded universal health care as "more important than holding down taxes."

Social Security is based on an extremely dangerous principle: that you should care whether the disabled widow across town has food to eat. The Social Security "reformers" would rather have you concentrate on maximizing your own consumption of goods and subordinating yourself to power. That's life. Caring for other people, and taking community responsibility for things like health and retirement — that's just deeply subversive.

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LHD continued from page 1

communities with humility and enthusiasm, dedicating his whole heart and spirit to his work. He runs projects that provide safer-sex materials to youth, clean needles to drug users, books to prisoners, socks and toothbrushes to homeless people, because he knows from experience what is needed – life-saving information, resources and maybe one person in the world who knows and cares what you're going through.

I was not there the day of the event in question, so I can't tell you what happened. But I can tell you from experience what kind of person Dave is: tireless, dedicated, passionate, strategic and hopeful. I saw Dave go back to school at age forty, saw him struggle and work and learn and earn his college diploma. Saw him start new projects as his old ones took on new lives, saw him mourn his losses and persistently pursue his dreams. As much as his services are needed in the world, his sense of purpose inspires people like myself to take action when we care about something. Please don't take that light out of the world.

Nomy Lamm is an Olympia native writer/speaker/touring musician currently located in Chicago.

For an informative, well-written narrative about Long Hair David's current legal crisis and the history behind it, see the front cover article in The Sitting Duck, July 21 – August 4, 2005.

ODA continued from page 1

their organization. This is a really interesting position because it means one of two things (if the city is not just desperately trying to cover up for their ODA friends):

1. City staff did not take my complaint seriously so did not review the evidence I supplied them (or they just can't read) because ARTICLE VII of the ODA's by-laws limits voting rights to Business members only. It was probably hard to discern to city staff since it was buried in a stand-alone section confusingly titled "Voting Rights". No doubt a resulting city staff report on women's constitutional voting rights would find no evidence of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution because it is confusingly titled "Women's Right to Vote".

2. The ODA has fraudulently filed a different set of their organizational by-laws with the city than what they provide to their own members to misdirect the city to not understand the true nature and operations of their organization. I wonder what Mayor Foutch will lecture the ODA about? Ethics?

I have filed another claim (the same one actually) and supplied the city with additional evidence and a step by step process for their understanding. Of course, I was assuming the city would want to want to know the true nature of their relationship with the ODA. Since Olympia is a municipal corporation they are required to know, which is why I have also sent a complaint to the Washington State Auditor's Office.

Currently the Olympia Downtown business Association has concocted a plan - with the city's support - to force every business downtown to pay them to operate a parking garage … even businesses that will be perhaps 10 blocks away from the structure and even businesses that have their own parking lots or structures. In talking with downtown businesses, it is clear that they have not been fully informed on the Business Improvement District plan. Not surprisingly, the ODA has yet to provide them with a copy of the proposal and has not informed businesses that whether or not they agree, the ODA is planning to force them to pay. Surely, there must be some measure of disclosure and some standard of informed consent needed to be met before one-sided measures are enacted. But maybe city staff can't find that paragraph!

Pat Tassoni testifies to the City Council, asking the Council to investigate the Olympia Downtown Association for non-compliance of City neighborhood association regulations.*

Finally, despite the ODA's historic negative campaign on downtown safety, Olympia was recently found to be the third safest place in the nation. That report has prompted The Olympian to begin to focus on white-collar crime (such as is described by the ODA information above). But there has been no article yet on the ODA, and The Olympian still demands we search for the WMDs of Olympia's safety: graffiti and panhandling.

Commentary

What can be done to bring police accountability to Olympia?

by Drew Hendricks

Each year, the City of Olympia spends around ten million dollars on Police, Crime Prevention, and the City's Jail. In contrast, the budget for the City Council's Police Auditor is just $20,000 per year, and that paltry amount of money is usually not all spent by the time the budget rolls over into the next year.

No significant revisions have been made to Olympia's police accountability processes in the three and a half years since Kent DeBoer was shot by two OPD officers in his parents' home in January 2002. Kent survived his encounter, but in November of 2002 Stephen Edwards did not survive his arrest by two OPD officers. Still, no significant revisions had been made after these events, except an increase in the use of force by 35 incidents each year for two years running, due to the introduction of the TASER in the fall of 2002.

> It is time Copwatch became the police auditor in fact, rather than by default.

In 2004, an ad-hoc committee of the Olympia City Council studied the police accountability processes already in place, and then disbanded after three public meetings. The ad hoc committee handed off its work to the regular General Government Committee, which promptly dropped the issue from its published work plan for the second half of 2005.

Olympia Copwatch has been active in our community for years now, but until recently had not been systematic in its document requests, and had chiefly been aimed at criticizing specific cases of abuse, and advocating for changes by pressuring the City Council and awaiting their action. Since the first few months of 2003, that has changed.

Olympia Copwatch now regularly requests all reports detailing the use of force, all shift assignments worked by patrol officers, the names of each sworn officer and the dates of their hiring. We have collected lists of vehicles operated by the police department, and photographed vehicles and personnel for use in our posters. We have collected a list of all TASERs owned by the department and are working with Amnesty International Chapter #474 to collect the detailed logs of each weapon's use, for regular auditing of TASER use by officers.

This systematic approach, coupled with regular reports to this newspaper and before the City Council's Tuesday meetings, has resulted in the reduction of TASER use by two thirds for February 2005. There are indications that the command staff of the Police Department has altered the level of details recorded in the minutes of their Strategic Technology Enhanced Policing (STEP) meetings to respond to an incident when a Copwatch organizer read the minutes at a City Council meeting in June. Police Chief Gary Michel even went so far as to meet and speak with former Seattle Chief of Police Norm Stamper, who has (since his retirement) become an outspoken critic of violent police culture. Changes are in the air.

It is important that we remember all of this if the department begins to unravel in the next few weeks and months under the weight of sex scandals and accusations of reprisals and abuse. The progress we have seen could easily be lost under the seedy (and distracting) details of the sex lives of more than six department employees (and former employees and volunteers) as they file their declarations and rebuttals in the case of Mel Jetter and his former lover, Cheryl King. Jetter stands accused of driving his vehicle into Ms King sometime in the early part of 2002. The details are sketchy and contradictory, but the story of their messy breakup threatens to become the most recent public face of Olympia Police dysfunction in the pages of the only daily newspaper in Thurston County. It is likely only the visible portion of a much larger circle of furtive on-the-job couplings within a culture noted for its isolation from normal society. It is also, as I have suggested, largely beside the point – except where it illustrates the impotence of management in the face of the Police Guild. (Mel Jetter is reportedly an officer of the Guild, and narrowly escaped firing in a 2003 letter of rebuke by his boss, Gary Michel.)

In this environment, it is time for Olympia Copwatch to step up, and adopt a strategy which gets to the root of the problem of police accountability. It is time Copwatch became the police auditor in fact, rather than by default. We can't wait for the City Council to act on our behalf any longer. We must create the office we expect to see, and fund it ourselves as we see fit. We must challenge oligarchy by adopting direct democracy.

If the community wants a real, independent police auditor, we have the technology and the laws in place already to facilitate much of what we want to see. It will take at least one full time employee for the first year, and perhaps as much as $15,000 per year to fund that employee's salary and office supplies. I am proposing that I train that employee in the document request and organizing techniques which have begun to bear fruit, and direct the organization of a true grassroots democratic model of police accountability for the future of Olympia. I am not running for, and will not accept at this time, that paid position due to the conflict of interest it would generate for me in the 2006 election cycle.

Drew Hendricks, an Olympia Copwatch organizer, can be reached at 870-3127.

Organic Consumers Association

Global mad cow byte

Japanese food safety regulators were shocked by a new Ministry of Agriculture study revealing that nearly half of Japanese confirmed mad cow cases would not have been discovered if the nation had been using U.S. testing techniques. Although the U.S. already has a shaky reputation internationally for its lax testing procedures for mad cow disease, consumers in Japan, formerly the largest overseas market for U.S. beef, were shocked to learn, that in 9 out of 20 cases, U.S. testing would have mistakenly allowed animals with the fatal brain-wasting disease to go to market.

Announcements

Announcements continued *from page 2*

How to Resist the Iraq War Nonviolently and Locally

Saturday August 20

- What are the local impacts of the Iraq war?
- In what ways is our local community complicit in allowing the war to continue?
- How could our local community withdraw our consent from it – and thereby drag it down?

Such questions informed an organizing session on Saturday July 9. Participants developed action plans in small groups, which will convene again from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday August 20 at a location to be confirmed soon.

Nonviolent resistance has been a powerful tool over the centuries – and increasingly in recent decades – because of some basic principles:

- People on top have power only if people below let them have the power.
- Ordinary people can withdraw their consent from abusive "powerholders."
- With enough people, strategy, grassroots organizing, and determination, we can nonviolently take the power away from the people on top.

How could we withdraw our consent from the war? Small groups are working on:

- Counter-recruiting
- Port of Olympia's military shipments
- Federal and local budget priorities
- Economic pressures on corporations profiting from war
- Racism and religious intolerance
- Fostering openness through religious congregations
- People-to-people outreach campaign

We invite you to join a small group and join us on August 20. The Olympia FOR (491-9093 info@olyfor.org) can refer you to the groups listed above.

Olympia FOR and OMJP organized the July 9 gathering. Local Quakers and Greens co-sponsored it. Information: Tom Crawford 280-0242 tcpraxis@comcast.net or Emily Lardner 705-3678 hungrytigerofoz@hotmail.com.

Nuclear Free Olympia

Public Hearing on an ordinance establishing a Nuclear-Free Zone in the City of Olympia

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 7pm
Olympia City Hall
900 Plum St SE

Copies of the ordinance will be available at www.ci.olympia.wa.us after 3pm on Friday, Aug. 5. For more information, contact TJ Johnson at 556-4596.

Act of Love: Choreographing Arts, Music, Culture, and Politics Into Movement Building

Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST) Representative Ana Claudia Pessoa
Friday, August 5th, 2005, 7 PM
Traditions Fair Trade Cafe
300 -- 5th Ave., Olympia
For info: lucilira@aol.com, 360.259-1879

With the help of literally hundred of poets, musicians, theater groups, and popular entertainers, Brazil's MST has developed and affirmed its cultural identity as part of its dramatic fight for land, justice, dignity and for creating a new Brazilian society.

She is coordinator of the Cultural sector who use poetry, music, theater, and painting in with in leadership development and political education of MST members. Ms. Pessoa will provide a report back on the MST's recent national March of 12,000 members to Brasilia, the nation's capital, to demand justice for landless workers and the end of agri-business.

The Landless Workers' Movement is the largest social movement in Latin America organizing a diverse group of working people to occupy large unproductive land. The movement challenges the landed elite and their allies in mainstream media outlets who have raged a battle to convince the public that agricultural modernizations, genetically modified crops and agro-exports are the only viable solution to solving Brazil's social and economic problems.

The MST has shown that land reform is in fact a critical path for creating a more socially equal and vibrant civil society. www.westernstatescenter.org

Beyond Hiroshima: Reflection and Action for a Nuclear-Free World

by Jody Suhrbier

A small group of thoughtful citizens have come together and decided that Olympia, Washington and the greater South Sound community should have an opportunity to reflect on nuclear weapons and the post-nuclear age. This summer marks the sixtieth anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and will be a time of acknowledgment, reflection, and action as the Beyond Hiroshima Coalition presents a series of events for the community to take part in.

The goals of this effort are threefold: to develop a series of events to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to draw attention to the continued existence and proliferation of nuclear weapons, particularly the accelerated pace of weapons development under the current presidential administration, and to empower and motivate local citizens to work towards elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020, if not sooner.

Series of Events

August 3 (Wednesday)
Reception at Side Door Gallery with an unveiling of a collection of forty posters from the Japanese A-Bomb Survivors Association. The posters tell the story of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and will remain on display during regular studio hours through the end of August.
"The Continuing Nuclear Danger".
Panel discussion at the Olympia Center, featuring Bruce Gagnon, of the Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons in Space and Martin Fleck, of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Other possible speakers include Jackie Cabasso, of Western States Legal Center and Tom Grissom, of The Evergreen State College.

August 4 through 7
Volunteers will be present at the Olympia Farmers Market to provide outreach and offer children (and the young at heart) an opportunity to make paper peace cranes.

August 4 (Thursday)
David Krieger, Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, will deliver a keynote address at the Olympia Center, titled "Confronting Nuclear Weapons: Where Do We Go From Here?". David is the author of ³Today is Not a Good Day for War², and will also read from this book of poetry at Orca Books on the afternoon of the 4th.

August 5 (Friday)
Local bands, The Carlysle Group, Back Porch Swing, and others, will provide an evening of music at Percival Landing to feed your soul and rekindle your fire to work for a nuclear-free world.
Some of the victims of the atomic bombings literally had their likeness burned into walls and sidewalks. Also on the evening of the 5th, these eerie shadows will be recreated throughout downtown Olympia. Chalk will be available for the community to join in.

August 6 (Saturday)
Second annual 24-hour peace meditation will be held at Tivoli Fountain on the Capital Campus. The focus of this year's meditation is on the continuing danger of nuclear weapons, with quotes of peace read on the hour.
The opening night of the beloved summer event, Olympia Outdoor Cinema will be co-hosted by the Beyond Hiroshima Coalition. A film short will start the evening featuring the story of Sadako and the peace cranes, a powerful story that children can relate to. Proceeds benefit efforts by the Beyond Hiroshima Coalition.

August 7 (Sunday)
A number of local churches will be devoting their Sunday services to the issues of peace and nuclear weapons proliferation.
Social Justice Committee Social Justice Film Series -- OUUC will host a powerful documentary titled "Hiroshima: Why the Bomb was Dropped" that explores why the United States used nuclear weapons on Japan. A facilitated discussion will follow the film.
Olympia Film Society -- 'Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Love the Bomb' is scheduled to show that evening at the Capital Theater.

August 8 (Monday)
Performance of Butoh dance will be presented at Heritage Park at dusk. Butoh is a highly expressionistic dance that initiated itself into Western consciousness as a response to the bombing of Hiroshima. Doranne Crable, faculty at The Evergreen State College, has designed this original work.

August 9 (Tuesday)
Final evening of this series of events, citizens and members of the Olympia City Council will participate in a candlelight vigil to call for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the United States and other nuclear powers by the year 2020. This event will be part of a national effort involving cities throughout the country that have taken steps against nuclear proliferation.

Please visit www.beyondhiroshima.org for more information about any of these activities or to get involved.

Join WIP worker collective

Works In Progress, an all volunteer organization, is at another crossroads. More energy is needed from our community for this important grassroots media project.

wip@zhonka.net or 956-1136

Orders To Go
ph. 357-6229
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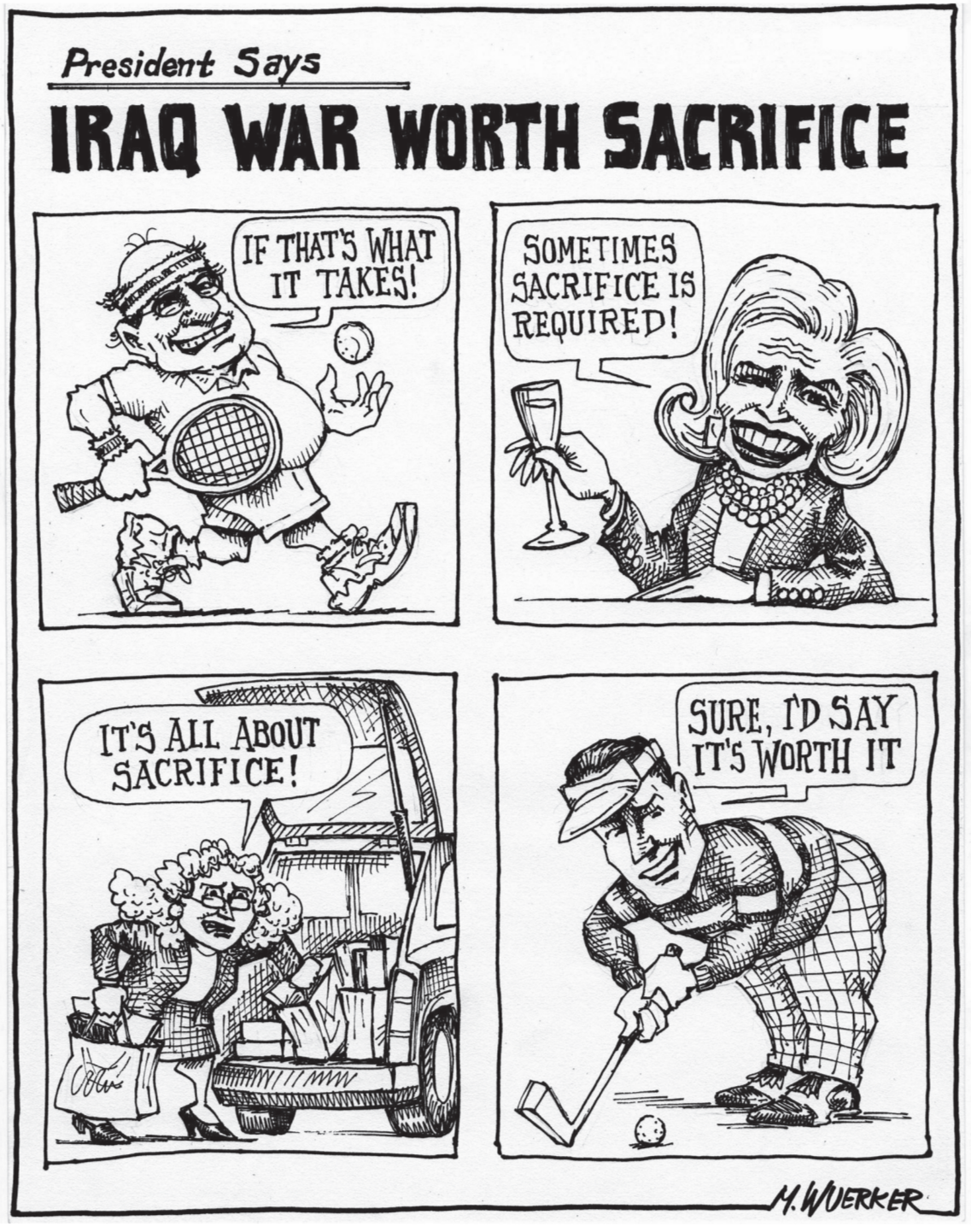
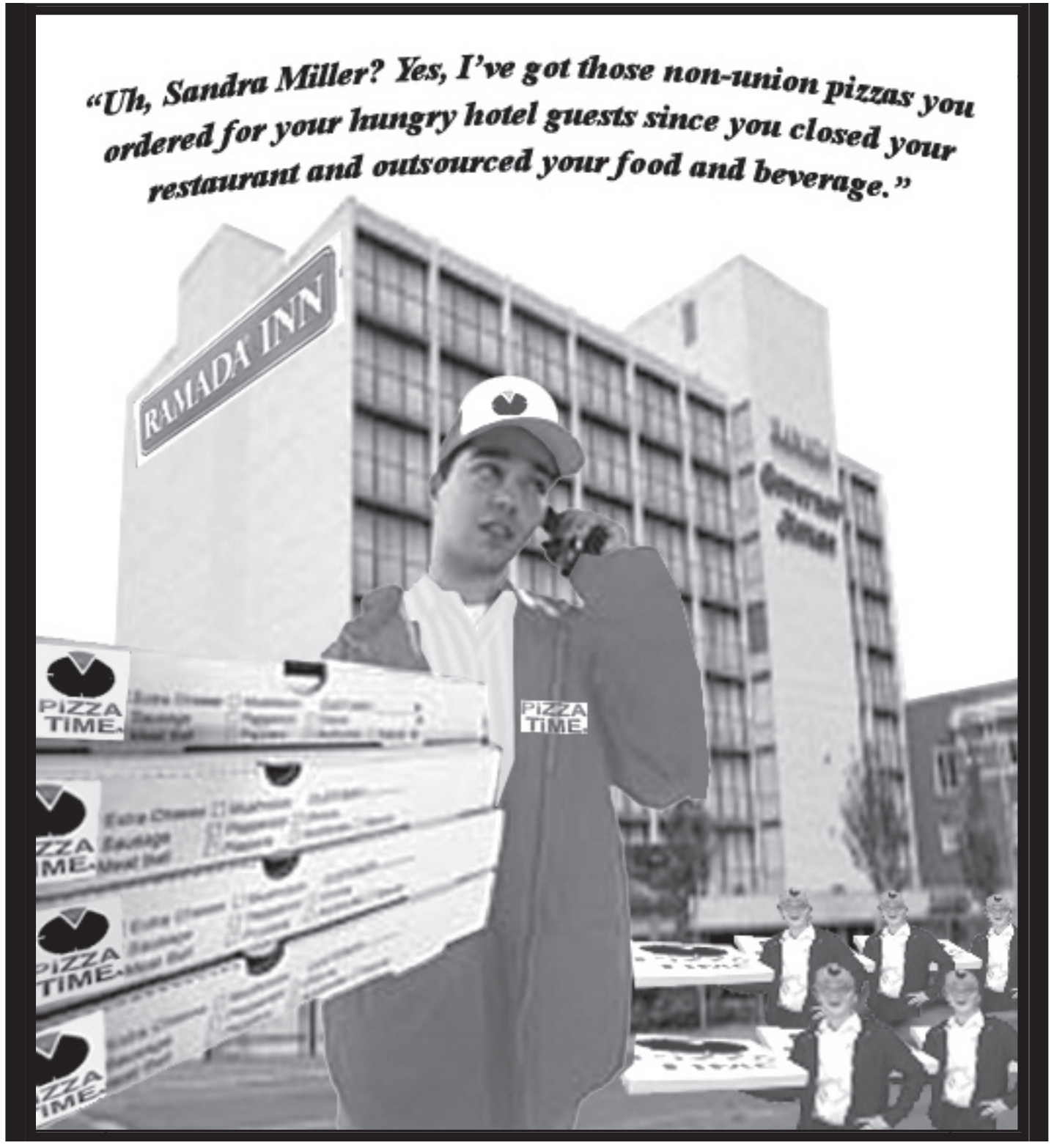
Works in Progress
P.O. Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507




"Uh, Sandra Miller? Yes, I've got those non-union pizzas you ordered for your hungry hotel guests since you closed your restaurant and outsourced your food and beverage."
RAMADA INN
PIZZA TIME